

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 13, and 24-33 without prejudice or dedication.

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A method of connecting a device to a central system, comprising:

detecting the insertion of a cable connector into a slot in said central system, wherein said cable connector is integral to a cable that is terminated by said cable connector, wherein said cable is communicably connected to said device at an opposite end of a cable from said cable connector;

reading, through said slot, configuration information stored in a memory contained within said cable connector, wherein said configuration information includes information describing said device; and

configuring said central system in response to said configuration information read from said memory contained within said cable connector.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said configuration information includes information describing at least one characteristic of a user of said device.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising writing, by said central system, at least one characteristic of a user into said memory contained within said cable connector.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said slot is one of a plurality of slots in said central system, and wherein said configuring comprises establishing a communication path between said slot and logic within said central system associated with said device.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said at least one characteristic of said user of said device comprises an identity of said user, wherein said configuring includes accessing at least one other characteristic of said user of said device in response to said identity of said user, and wherein said at least one other characteristic of said user is stored within and accessed from a memory in said central system.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said configuring comprises configuring a speech recognition process within said central system in response to said at least one characteristic of said user.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said device is a microphone.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said device is an input device.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said device is an output device.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said configuration information to a maintenance interface of said central system separate from said slot.

12. (currently amended) A system for interfacing a central system to a device, comprising:

detection logic for detecting the insertion of a cable connector into a slot in said central system, wherein said cable connector is integral to a cable that is terminated by said cable connector, wherein said cable is communicably connected to said device at an opposite end of a cable from said cable connector;

configuration information reading logic for reading, through said slot, configuration information stored in a memory contained within said cable connector, wherein said configuration information includes information describing said device; and

configuration logic for configuring said central system in response to said configuration information read from said memory contained within said cable connector.

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said configuration information includes information describing at least one characteristic of a user of said device.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, further comprising configuration information writing logic for writing, by said central system, at least one characteristic of a user into said memory contained within said cable connector.

16. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said slot is one of a plurality of slots in said central system, and wherein said configuring logic is further operable to establish a communication path between said slot and logic within said central system associated with said device.

17. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein said at least one characteristic of said user of said device comprises an identity of said user, wherein said configuration logic is operable to access at least one other characteristic of said user of said device in response to said identity of said user, and wherein said at least one other characteristic of said user is stored within and accessed from a memory in said central system.

18. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein said configuration logic is further operable to configure a speech recognition process within said central system in response to said at least one characteristic of said user.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein said device is a microphone.

20. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said device is an input device.

21. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said device is an output device.

22. (original) The system of claim 12, further comprising maintenance logic for providing said configuration information to a maintenance interface of said central system separate from said slot.

23. (currently amended) A system for connecting a device to a central system, comprising:

means for detecting the insertion of a cable connector into a slot in said central system, wherein said connector is integral to a cable that is terminated by said cable connector, wherein said cable is communicably connected to said device at an opposite end of a cable from said cable connector;

means for reading, through said slot, configuration information stored in a memory contained within said cable connector, wherein said configuration information includes information describing said device; and

means for configuring said central system in response to said configuration information read from said memory contained within said cable connector.

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)